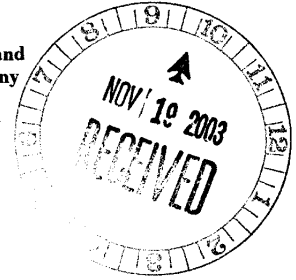


BNSF

SARAH WHITLEY BAILIFF
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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 396X); The
Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) Abandonment
in Ottawa, Kansas**

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please reference a Board decision served on December 26, 2002, in the above-referenced docket. A notice of interim trail use (until June 24, 2003) was issued to enable any state or local government agency, or other interested person to negotiate the acquisition of the line. By decision dated June 16, 2003, the STB granted BNSF's and the City of Ottawa's request to extend the NITU period to December 21, 2003. BNSF remains in negotiations with the City of Ottawa at this time and has determined that additional time to finalize a potential trail transaction will be necessary. It is my understanding that the City of Ottawa is sending a letter requesting an additional 180 days (through June 27, 2004). BNSF concurs with the City's request and respectfully requests an extension of the notice of interim trail use for an additional 180 days (through June 27, 2004).

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

cc:

Phillis Johnson-Ball (STB)
Andy Haney (City of Ottawa, KS)
Richard Batie